

Art museum directors cancel convention over Amendment 2

By **Louis Aguilar**/Gazette Telegraph

Colorado has lost another convention — a four-day meeting of art museum directors — to the controversy over Amendment 2.

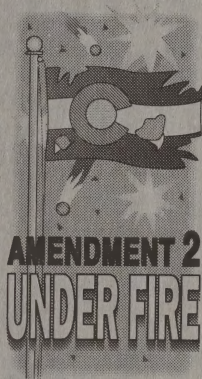
The Association of Art Museum Directors canceled plans to meet in February 1994 in Denver and Colorado Springs.

In a written statement released Tuesday, the association called Amendment 2 “grossly discriminatory in nature.” The amendment bans laws that would protect gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Officials for the group could not be reached for comment. The association represents 160 directors of the largest art museums in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and about 150 of them were expected to attend the convention.

“It is a loss, in terms of prestige,” said David J. Wagner, executive director of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. “We lost the tremendous opportunity to show off the culture and the museums of the state to some of the most important art (museum) directors in the world.”

Wagner said the group intended to spend a day in Colorado Springs and sponsor a seminar at the Fine Arts Center.



50,000 valid signatures and turn in as many as 100,000 to the secretary of state. "We feel that the tide is really changing," Barrus said.

What hasn't changed much since last year's campaign is the group's general pitch. Proponents believe hemp — in its various forms — can do everything from soothe the effects of such ailments as arthritis, glaucoma, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis to help save our forests and wean us from foreign oil.

"It's an amazing medicine," said Barrus, 43, who was once a pharmacist.

Barrus said one provision of the initiative mandates that all new laws will not use the term marijuana, but rather speak of hemp when talking about the plant and cannabis when discussing the drug. "The word will go away," he said.

"In the law, it will go away."

The proposed initiative legalizing hemp is a sweeping one. The initiative would allow people to grow up to 6 kilograms — or just more than 13 pounds — of the substance for personal use each year, but they would have to get a license to sell it commercially. The product would be taxed like tobacco, and the revenue would be earmarked to support the hemp industry, medical research and other uses determined by the state Legislature.

